

VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

Vegas Fan Events This Week

Vegrants Meeting
Saturday (12/17) 7:30 PM

VSDA Movie Outing
Sunday (12/18) 9:45 AM

December Sunday Social
Sunday (12/18) 2:00 PM

SNAPS Deadline
Sunday (12/18)

*Check out the Calendar
and preview stories*

Katzes to Host New Year's Eve!

Joyce and I will welcome all of Las Vegas Fandom — or at least those who choose to come — on behalf of The United Fans of Las Vegas on New Year's Eve. The Las Vegas Fandom New Year's Eve Open House will start at 7:30 and will run into the wee hours.

This is the 15th annual New Year's Open House we have hosted in Las Vegas. It started with one or two friends dropping by for a while during New Year's Eve and has grown slowly and steady to this day.

The deal is simple. We provide an array of food, a certain amount of drink and our hospitality to all fans who want to come over and spend part (or all) of New Year's Eve with their fan friends. We realize that many people have New Year's Eve plans, so you are invited to make your stop as short or long as you like. Some

folks stay to drink champagne at midnight while others proceed to other revels.

As with all "open" events at the Launch Pad, the living room and dining room are designated as "no smoking" ones, but we have plenty of places for you to light up if you are so minded.

SNAPS Disty #9 Heading for Record!

"Wow!" is the best way to describe the 9th distribution of SNAPS (Southern Nevada Amateur Press Society). The deadline for sending contributions to Official Editor Joyce Katz (joyceworley1@cox.net) isn't until Sunday (12/18), but this certainly looks like it'll be the group's biggest and best mailing since its formation in April, 2005.

Besides all the usual fine contributions, at least three very special ones are already set for the distribution. The 9th Disty will include a photo-essay by David Gordon on Loscon, Aileen Forman's presentation of life in Flippin in words and pictures and the new issue of Alan White's *Black Cat*. There's still time to be a part of the fun and join your Vegas fan friends in con-

WHAT NUMBER
FANDOM IS THIS,
ANYWAY?



Inside Story The Fan Parade

Continuity is one of the main things that distinguishes Core Fandom from the vastness of All Known Fandom and, to an even greater degree, Mega Fandom. The 1,200 or so participants in Core Fandom not only know Fandom today, but they understand the 75-year journey that has brought it to this point. They aren't fanhistorians — that's what we have fanhistorians for — but they know they perceive Fandom's continuity much as the typical US citizen knows the American Experience. In other words, they may be hazy on a lot of specific facts, but they get the drift.

One of the things I especially like about *Vegas Fandom Weekly* is the way it embodies Fandom's continuity. When I look over the first year's issues, I'm struck by the fact that its contributors represent the parade of fannish eras. *VFW* benefits from contributions by fans from the late 1930's (Art Widner) to this year's best newcomers (Chris Garcia, Peter Sullivan and Teresa Cochran). The cross-fertilization — and no one fertilizes like the *VFW* gang — between fans like Dick Lupoff and Dave Burton, who may not have previously had much contact, gives *VFW* a lot of its vitality.

I'm especially proud of how *VFW* has struck a chord with some pretty terrific fans and brought them back to some activity. I hope the fanzine will continue to be Fandom's welcoming light in the window. There are quite a few I'd love to have in these pages. (Somewhere in the Glades of Gafia, Mike Glicksohn, midwife to modern Vegas Fandom, stirs in the darkness and *remembers...*)

The welcome mat is always out here, even if you've just been lurking.

— Arnie

tributing to this historic distribution of Vegas' local amateur press association.

(You'll find a fuller explanation of SNAPS in many issues of VFW, including #56.)

VSFA Website Loses Its Host!

Ruth Davidson, who manages the VSFA website, reports that it is down temporarily due to hosting problems. Here's the email she got:

"Due to a massive security issue that resulted in a user account being compromised, used for a bank of america phishing scam, and forcing me to look down the barrels of both bank of America's legal department

and my ISP, I am going to be disabling personal web hosting for all accounts on Friday, 12/16/2005. I may put it back in a limited fashion at a later date, but in the interim I cannot allow untrusted content to be made publicly available. I regret having to take this action, but my limited free time does not allow me to look at everything that people want to host out of my house and verify that it is securely sound. Shell and email access will be unaffected."

Armed with plenty of suggestions from helpful fans, Ruth is checking out replacement hosts this week

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Vegas Fandom Weekly #57, Volume 2 Number 3, December 14, 2005, is written and produced by Arnie Katz (909 Eugene Cernan St., Las Vegas, NV 89145; Email: crossfire4@cox.net; phone: 702-648-5677).

Special Thanks to Roxanne Gibbs (many things), Bill Burns (posting), Mindy Hutchings (posting), David Gordon (Futurists liaison), Alan White (arty fella) and Joyce Katz (proofreading).

Reporters this issue: Roxanne Gibbs, Michael Bernstein, Teresa Cochran, James Taylor, David Gordon, Bill Kunkel, Ruth Davidson and Joyce Katz

Art/Photo Credits: Shelby Vick (4), Ray Nelson (16), Bill Kunkel (15), Rotsler/Gilliland (18), all else by Bill Rotsler.

Columnists This Issue: Shelby Vick, Rob Hansen, Lloyd Penney, Chris Garcia, Peter Sullivan.

VFW is free by request — and you may get it anyway. It can be downloaded at the SNAFFU and VSFA sites and at efanazines.com. No holiday revelers were seriously harmed during the production of this fanzine.

Member: fwa. Supporter: AFAL. Believer: United Fans of Vegas; Toner II in 2006! Vegas Westercon in '08!

Events & Happenings

Katzenjammer

This issue's column continues my look at the categories in the forthcoming 2006 Las Vegas Fan Poll. The idea is to salute local fans and honor the best in fan activity in our area for 2005. There's no trophy or plaque or certificate, but the esteem of the Las Vegas fan community should gladden many hearts when the top finishers in each category are announced.

The ballot will go out on January 4, 2006. You will be able to vote for up to three choices in each category. The winner will be the one with the high vote point total (five points for 1st, three for 2nd and one for 3rd). There will be space on the ballot for write-ins.

A special issue of Vegas Fandom Weekly will extol and discuss all the top finishers.

A category that should fuel a lot of friendly debate is "**Most Important Happening in Las Vegas Fandom in 2005.**" A lot of momentous things have happened in Las Vegas Fandom during the last calendar year and this category gives fans the chance to put them in perspective and decide their relative impact on our city's Fandom.

In alphabetical order (to promote impartiality), here are some of the leading contenders:

Formation of SNAPS. The Southern Nevada Amateur Press Society, founded by Joyce Katz, JoHn Hardin and me on behalf of SNAFFU, is a monthly local amateur press association. Since its first mailing in April, 2005, the group has produced hundreds of pages of fascinating material as it helped pioneer the idea of an all-electronic apa (following in the footsteps of eAPA...)

Las Vegas Fantasy & Science Fiction Day. There hadn't been a general interest con in Las Vegas since the mid-1990's Silvercon when the leaders of the Vegas fan community came together to create this one day convention. Under the leadership of Woody Bernardi, Las Vegas Fantasy & Science Fiction Day presented a varied program that did much to catalyze fan activity in Glitter City.

Sunday Socials Begun by VSFA. Las Vegas Fandom has made the monthly informal gathering on the third Sunday one of the highlights of the monthly fan events calendar. The first few featured lively, short programs, but the socializing became the sole focus when fans indicated a preference for chitterchatter rather than panels.

Vegas Fandom Weekly. Although *VFW* started at

the end of '04, its impact as a weekly newszine for Las Vegas was felt strongly during 2005. By the end of the year, it began to achieve its secondary purpose of bringing Fandom and Las Vegas closer together, the way they were in the 1990's.

Woody Bernardi Departs for Boston. A tireless supporter of all forms of local fanac during his more than 15 years of participation in Fandom, Woody Bernardi had done much to benefit Las Vegas Fandom when he suddenly decided to relocate to Boston. The effect on VSFA, a group he founded that was still in its infancy, show how much he is missed.

The category "**Outstanding Local Event of 2005**" recognizes the important role in in-person events (parties, meetings, outings) to the local fan scene.

Some of the notable contenders (in alphabetical order) are:

Big Weekend I. A bit of fannish cooperation resulted in the weekend of April 16-17, one of the liveliest in Vegas Fandom History. The Daughertys' Pool Party was Saturday afternoon, followed by a Las Vegants Open House at night and the Sunday Social the next day (with a program on the pioneers of Fandom and SF.)

Good-Bye Formans Party. There has never been a more popular couple in Las Vegas Fandom than Ken & Aileen Forman and the big send-off for their move to Flippin, AR, brought 24 fans to the Launch Pad for a night of laughter and tears.

Las Vegas Fandom Christmas Party. Lavish hospitality was the order of the day when James & Kathryn Daugherty took over the hosting of Las Vegas Fandom's annual party. The Alien Auction, a lavish food spread, the "warm-up" Cookie Fest and a nice turn-out added up to one of the year's finest fannish evenings.

Las Vegas Fandom Halloween Party. James Willey scored a solid success as host of the revived Halloween Party. Mindy Hutchings and Carol Kern also deserve credit for bringing back this annual event.

Las Vegas Fantasy & Science Fiction Day. It was a great day of panels and a delightful lunch and an evening of Vegants-style revelry at the Launch Pad.

May Sunday Social. The well-planned and executed program featured an art gallery and two panels, one each on fan and professional art. This was the best, and best-attended, Social of the year.

— Arnie

NOW & Again Fandom

Do you wanta know the typical day of a computer-addicted retired fan?

SURE you want to know! You're slaving at the mouth to find out! (Well, if you keep on reading, you're gonna find out!)

First of all, let me explain that I am not kidding when I say I am 'computer-addicted'. If I'm awake and in the house, chances are I'm in front of the computer. I wake up in the morning and turn on the computer. (Yeah, I'm one of those who turn their computer off at night; there's a little fan in the . . . video card, was it? . . . that ain't working quite right. Happened on the last upgrade of my computer. I was assured it was no problem, but I still feel safer turning it off an night.)

I check my email, see the current hit count on Planetary Stories, check the PS

email as well (particularly if one of the PS hits spent a long time) and, maybe, play my first game of Spades. BUT – if it's between 7 and 8 Central, I turn on the TV and check to see which episode of MacGyver is on. Even if I've seen it lotsa times, might watch some. Always that Richard Dean Anderson (MacGyver, you fool!) had to be a fan. . . then he made it more obvious by starring in Stargate 1 on TV.

Then I fiddle around with my digital camera, trying to learn different settings. I recently learned about using 'transparent background' in Photoshop Elements. First fannish thing I did will appear (has appeared? I'm not sure when this column will show) in confuSon V1N2. There I used

a picture from an ad and put a puffin in it! Showed him sitting at a big computer layout. Well, if confuSon 2 hasn't shown up yet, I'm going to scoop myself! Here's a photo I shot of my actual computer setup – with an apprehensive puffin sitting in my chair!

(I purposefully didn't straighten things up; see all the papers laying around? See the over-



flowing wastebasket? Natural and true-to-life!) (Actually, it's part of my filing system: Things I use a lot are in that area under the monitor; notes I'm working from are in that stack on the edge of the desk. Unseen on the floor beside the wastebasket is a stack of Things To Put Away. . . .)

Somewhere along the line, I play a computer game – from Solitaire right on up to online games. One that I play a lot of is 100% Free Spades, which keeps popping up a message that I can BUY an updated version. Why? The Free version suits me fine! Then I've downloaded Zuma and Luxor and many others – and I play online poker. (The No Cash version, of course. I have fun with it this way; if I could lose money, it

would be no fun!)

I admitted all this gaming to Arnie, and he wrote:

Dear Shelby:

Be warned, though, about the addictive, time-gulping ability of online gaming. You don't want to look back and see a million games of poker instead of a glittering line of issues of ConfuSON and columns for VFW.

Faanishly,

Arnie

So I went back to fanning. (But, still – when I hit a rough spot, or things aren't going right, a game DOES lighten things up!)

Check Planetary Stories hits again.

–Ooops! It's 10 o'clock; time for another MacGyver. TVLand has one at seven, Spike TV at 10. (They got me confused; used to be at 3, then they swapped it.) In fact, after MacGyver there is Deep Space Nine for two hours, then Next Generation for two hours! I'll catch snatches of all of them. . . .

Of course, there are UNfannish things in my day, as well. At least five days a week I walk about a mile. Gotta keep the ticker ticking! And there's the Writer's Almanac. Over a year ago I started getting it online and decided I would copy things from it to my computer – things than interested me. (Wonder how it'll go now? It's been over a year, and things will surely be repeating.) But I save things like Claude Rain's birthday, the signing of the Magna Carta, the jailing of Oscar Wilde – stuff out of the past that have relevance to my memory.

Memory. I keep hearing about Alzheimer's and the idea of not being able to remember things really scares me. So I figured – keep a record! (Also, at the urging of my daughter Cheryl, I have begun writing down things of my past. All along I would come up with some tale or another and she would say, "Dad – you've got to write that all down!" So, on the computer, I have my Almanac and something I've titled: "My Life". Now, ain't that a stirring title?) Time for another game. (After I check the counter again on Planetary Stories.)

• +

So what else do I do? Well, I write. (Right now, working on finishing a story I had started for Planetary Stories, then misplaced. Found it on a backup CD, and am back to work on it.) Just finished a story I actually SUBMITTED! First one in years! Like always, I'm keeping my fingers crossed. . . . And I do things for confuSon, and my current joy is PulpMags listserv. All kinds a stuff about the old pulps – including cover scans and actual stories that are scanned and include illos. With a 'pulp' background, just like I try to reproduce in Planetary Stories.

They just recently brought up a pulp author I actually knew! Back when I was a teenager in Lynn Haven, my dad brought a guy home he said he was sure I would want to meet – a published author! The man's name was Lemuel deBra, and he had been a member of the Secret Service and worked a lot on Chinese crime in California. He wrote crime stories about Chinatown and such. Or, he HAD. It was sad; he said he couldn't get the juice flowing any more; he tried to get it from a liquor bottle, as so many have, but it didn't work.

He was living on a small government retirement and reprint rights. He read some of my stuff and gave me tips. Even tho he no longer sold, the fact that I was dealing with someone who had been A Real Live Author meant a lot to me. . . .

Jeopardy! Comes on 4:30 Central. Now, that's a show I try never to miss. MacGyver and DS9 and Next Generation are shows I usually catch parts of, here'n'there; Jeopardy!, on the other hand, I try to catch from start to finish. Why, there are times I even get the answers right!

Then comes supertime, and then – back to my computer! And check the counter on Planetary Stories. Planetary Stories email, too, Just In Case.

And at 5:30 comes Teen Titans. If I haven't seen it, I watch. Sometimes even catch snatches of one I've seen.

I should mention there are times when I actually spend half a day or more on one single bit – like a box header on a story for V1N3 Planetary Stories. My daughter says, "Dad – how can you spend so long on no more than that?"

To which I respond, "I like doing it!" What better reason for fanac? — Shelby Vick

Canadiana Toronto's Pubnights

It is near the end of November, and Yvonne and I are looking at our wall calendar to see what's happening, and to get a grip on the rapidly filling weekend. It's Saturday, the 26th, and Yvonne mentions she should get the Pubnights reminder out to the mailing lists, and I fully agree.

We speak of the monthly Pubnights, held in the tradition of the London First Thursdays. Founded by itinerant Irish fan Tommy Ferguson, who lived in Toronto for a short time, Yvonne has been keeping them going with negotiations with various pubs and restaurants to house us for one evening a month, and this has been going strong for over 10 years now. We are now at the Duke of York pub, just north of the University of Toronto campus in central Toronto. Our First Thursday was the first, but others have come along...the Third Monday (formerly Third Wednesday) takes place in the west end of Toronto at Orwell's Pub (founded 1984), and has been going for about seven years. The local Dr. Who fans also have their own pubnight elsewhere in the city, also on the first Thursday of the month, and the local pagans also have a pubnight, also on the third Monday...geez, no imagination, hm? There have been other attempts at pubnights, especially from the local Trek community, but they have died quickly. Let's get out and go to the pub, teetotaller that I am.

The Pubnights reminder spoken of earlier is

Yvonne's e-zine, or e-reminder, called Pubnites and Other Events. It goes out to a mailing list of about 100 local fans, and we get 25 to 35 fans each First Thursday, and anywhere from 8 to 20 fans at the Third Monday.

Some people have been to a pubnight once and never again, others come out sporadically, others are regulars. A few say they'll never come out, but want to be on the list to be reminded that there is still a local fannish community that's busy.

We jump forward to the day! It is Thursday, December 1st, and the calendar says it is the First Thursday of the month. I've missed the last few months of First Thursdays because of work, but not this time. I get to the Duke of York around 6pm, the waitress tells me that they are trying to find more space for us (?), and I find that I am not the first one to arrive there. Huddled around far fewer seats than are promised are Paul Whitaker, Janet Jones, and none other than Hugo-winning author Robert J. Sawyer and his wife Carolyn Clink.

I wedge myself in between the various groups already crowded into the main dining room, and in true SFnal fashion, I am assigned a number for billing purposes...I am number 6. (Insert obligatory Prisoner reference here.)

When we first started coming to the Duke of York, a certain area and a certain number of seats were

promised to us, and the establishment has never really delivered. They have placed us wherever they could, but not having enough space for us, but more than enough for other groups, has become fairly typical. Not long behind me arrive David Warren, Murray Moore, David Clink, and Yvonne, who has Russian chocolates for all to enjoy.

The discussion around the table is mostly about knowing other diners in the pub, having recently had job interviews, and various plans for Christmas dinners. Jody Frankel arrives, having recently moved back to Toronto from London, followed by Hope Leibowitz, Drew Mathers and Andre Kovace-



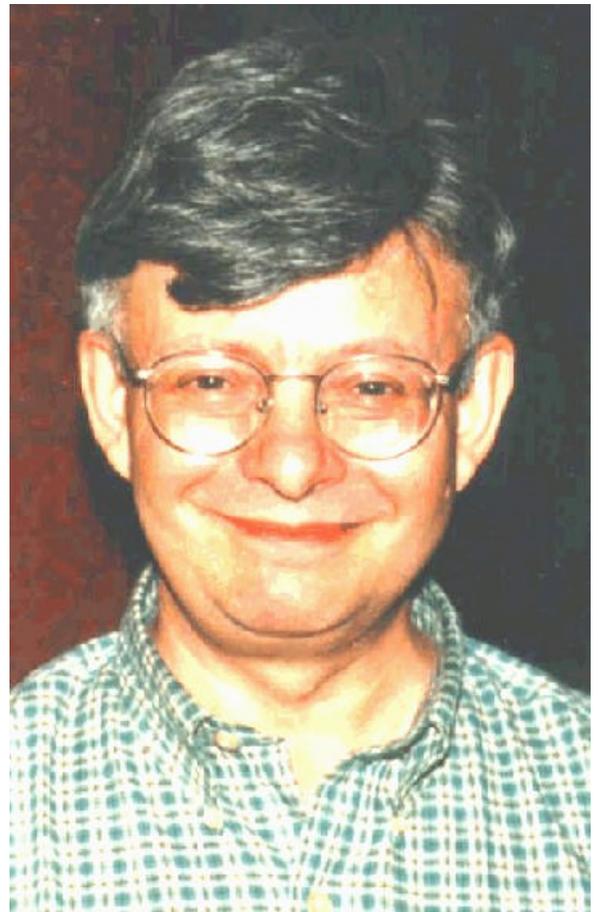
vic. As Kat Strader arrives, the room is full, and we have nowhere near the 30 seats promised. Management seems unconcerned, and Yvonne speaks to the manager about the lack of space, and the failure of the pub to provide us with a dedicated area, with our group having come to the Duke for close to 2 years now. I speculated at the time that we're not that important to the Duke because per person, we spend probably less than the average person; few of us are ordering anything remotely alcoholic. Charles Levi arrives to bring home the point that much of our group has yet to arrive, yet they are left standing.

Yvonne's discussion with the manager yields only confrontation from management; we just wanted the space promised, but the manager complains that we are not grateful for the space provided, and that she knows how to properly run a restaurant, and she knows what she's doing, yadda, yadda, yadda... End of discussion, Yvonne is less than pleased with the manager's reply, and the search for a new home will begin once again. For some reason, the pub expects that we shall all arrive together, order at the same time, and leave together. We are the opposite, and the pub seems to have problems with this.

David Simmons arrives, followed by Lance Sibley (one of the heroes of Torcon 3), and Donald Simmons. The conversation turns to Con no Baka, a new anime/gaming convention held in October that failed spectacularly. The hotel it was at shut it down the Saturday afternoon of the con after it had failed to fill its contracted-for room block. This meant that not only was all of Sunday programming cancelled, but the con committee and the dealers were all ordered off the premises by midnight. Many of us said that they pleaded earlier with the chairman, Aaron Yorgason, to start a small convention, but Aaron started big, a large hotel and three days, given that anime conventions pull in spectacular numbers these days, especially Anime North, the older anime con in Toronto that enjoyed 12,000 attendees this past May. However, even a new anime convention is not guaranteed, and Con no Baka unfortunately proved it.

Restaurants have subtle ways of saying they don't want you back, and the discussion Yvonne had with the manager earlier may have been the first clue. Not long after that little conversation, our waiter nailed Hope with a full glass of water, which was our second clue. The third clue was that the waiter later sideswiped Howard with another water. Maybe he was just tired, but that much water and ice flying through the air certainly gave me the hint.

It's 8pm, and the other groups in the room are dispersing, giving us the room we could have used earlier,



and perhaps more. Raymond Alexander arrives just in time for a quick beer sampling from a local microbrewery, followed by Dan Evens, and Alex von Thorn and Marah Searle-Kovacevic, fresh from their work at CascadiaCon in Seattle. The conversation goes from CascadiaCon to Yvonne's and my being Canadian agents for the LA Worldcon, to the con suite Yvonne and I ran at Astronomicon 9 in Rochester, NY in October, to the fact a Toronto group has won the right to hold the World Horror Convention in 2007. Rebecca Simkin arrives around 8:30, and Yvonne and I depart not long after; I work in the evenings, which really cramps my party activities. Work is the curse of the non-drinking class, too.

A confrontation with the pub manager is not a regular part of First Thursdays, but good times, good conversations, and good food are. Our work begins now to find a new place to have our group, and there is already a list of candidate venues to check out. Wish us luck, and I hope we can keep this ten-year tradition going another ten. If you are in Toronto for any reason, contact us, and we'll give you the upcoming pubnights schedule. We'd be happy to see you there.

— Lloyd Penny

London Calling Shock & Awe

You may recall me enthusing over Walker's, the new venue for London fandom's venerable first-Thursday meetings, in previous columns. Alas, the pub has been sold - probably to be turned into yet another bloody wine bar for whatever yuppies are calling themselves these days - and so we continue our nomadic existence of recent years. The December meeting was held in the cellar bar of the Melton Mowbray, a pub on the same block as Walker's, and reaction to it was generally favourable so there's a possibility this may become our new 'regular' venue. We shall see.

This being December, Saturday 4th saw the latest of Brian Ameringen and Caroline Mullan's annual parties, themselves something of a venerable tradition since, astonishingly, they've been throwing them now for twenty straight years.

Starting in Harrow, they later moved across London to Ilford, to an enviably large house where the parties have continued. And it's just two streets away from where the UK's first ever fan group meeting was held on 27th October 1930, oddly enough - yes, this year is UK fandom's 75th birthday.

Avedon and I took a taxi over to Ilford with Alun Harries and with New York fan Lise Eisenberg, who was staying with us. As always, Brian and Caroline laid on an amazing spread. Dips, various breads, a large variety of exotic sausages, a huge ham, lots of cold cuts, a multitude

of cheeses, a vat of mushroom soup, vegetarian fajitas, chocolates, muffins, etc, etc. Sixty to seventy people turned up from all over the country. None went away hungry. As is traditional at British parties, everyone brought booze, but despite this the hosts also laid on a large bowl of punch.

For London fans, these parties mark the real start of the holiday season. long may they continue.

One other bit of news - inspired by the positive response to the CD of Vince Clarke and Ethel Lindsay's photo albums I produced back in April, I recently put together a second CD, this time of the photos Avedon and I took in the 1970s, 80s and 90s since, as I eventually realized, these are now of fanhistoric interest in their own right. Neither of us was ever much of a shutterbug, but even with our casual and intermittent approach to taking photos you're going to build up quite a collection over three decades. And, since there's room on the disk and because I managed to miss out a bunch of photos last time, I'm also including the Vince and Ethel collections again, now expanded and corrected. I have been slothful about mailing these out, but a copy is now winging it's way to Arnie, for those of you Vegrants who might be interested.

Well, have a Merry one, and I'll see you again next year. — Rob Hansen

Continued from p 2

and should have something concrete to announce about Toner 2 in time for the next issue of *Vegas Fandom Weekly*.

Ruth indicates that the cost of the new host may be higher than at the old one. She plans to ask for donations. If that proves to be the case, *VFW* will print the info for would be contributors.

See 'Kong' Before the Social!

VSFA will sponsor an outing to see the recently opened remake of *King Kong* on Sunday (12/18) prior to the regularly scheduled Sunday Social. Fans will assemble at the Brendan Theater at the Palms Hotel & Casino (4321 W. Flamingo Road) between 9:45 AM and the movie start time.

King Kong, which runs a little over three hours, will break shortly after 1:00 PM, which will give every-

one plenty of time to get to the Blue Ox by 2:00 PM for the start of the Social.

Vegrants Hope for Happy Chanukah!

The December 17 meeting of Las Vegrants is the last chance before the holidays to wish fellow members a Happy Chanukah and a Merry Christmas. (Skinny Dipping is *not* expected to be part of the festivities, Tony, because the Launch Pad does not currently have a pool.)

The informal "Core Fandom" fan club hopes to mark the last meeting of '05 as one of the largest. This

will be the last Vegrants gathering until the New Year's Eve Open House. See all you reprobates at the Launch Pad.

Taylor Joins Toner 2 as Co-Chairman!

Merric Anderson has announced that James Taylor has agreed to join him as co-chairman of Toner 2, scheduled for the weekend before the LACon in Las Vegas in 2006.

James has spent the last week or so on a fact-finding mission to choose the right hotel. We'll have more on that when they select the venue and have a

Proud & Clonely **SN AFFU Central**

When we arrived at Borders the Cafe was more crowded than usual, enough that it was initially unclear where we were all going to sit. After some initial confusion, we promptly ousted some mundanes and took over their table.

Attending were James Taylor, Teresa Cochran, Lori Forbes, Lynn McGibboney, surprise guest Alvin Fuller (Charles Fuller's uncle), and President Michael Bernstein.

We started out with some discussion about future meetings and venues. In short, January is the first month that will feature the new meeting schedule of One formal meeting on the second Friday, and a Dinner meeting on the fourth Friday. This is somewhat complicated by the fact that the second Friday formal meeting is somewhat subsumed by the co-sponsored (with the Las Vegas Futurists) presentation by author Wil McCarthy at the Rainbow & Lake Mead Borders store on the 13th.

Contrary to the mistaken information that has been posted to some of the local mailing lists, this does **not** mean that the SN AFFU meeting is canceled.

Meanwhile, we are still selecting the dinner venue for the fourth Friday event in January, and we are also still searching for a good permanent location for our second-Friday meetings, starting in February.

Complete details about both January meetings will be posted very soon.

After dealing with the administrivia, I called the meeting to order at 8:30, and we launched into the nights topic: "Who's your Daddy? Clones, Hybrids, and Genetic Engineering".

We immediately focused the topic more explicitly: How will advances in biotech affect the structure of

the social grouping we call a 'family'?

We fired a few ranging shots on the subject by mentioning Heinlein's extended families and LeGuin's 'Left Hand of Darkness', but a mention and description of the corporate female clone-clans in David Brin's 'Glory' diverted us to a discussion of the genetic determination of personality.

I maintained that to the extent that personality tendencies are genetically determined, a clan of clones would, in fact, develop an internal culture that was self-reinforcing and which would minimize external disruptive influences, producing a steady-state, or perhaps an oscillating repeating pattern of personality, but most of the other folks seemed less convinced. To me, this is just an extension of the fact that successful cultures (corporate as well as familial or societal) are themselves self-perpetuating, even without relying on a uniform genetic substrate, but several thought that environment dominated to such an extent that the 'butterfly effect' would result in a wide divergence of personalities, unless the environment was controlled at least to the extent that it was in the film 'The Boys from Brazil', if not more.

Along the way, we also touched on how genetic engineering might impact family structure through increased longevity, Aspergers (AKA 'Geek Syndrome'), x-rated Muppets, and Lynn's adventures with hats as tip amplification devices.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

We then retired to Red Robin for some dinner (for those who were hungry) and further conversation

— Michael Bernstein

signed contract. They're comparing prices and facilities and expect to choose between three lading possibilities within the next week or so.

Heard Around Vegas Fandom...

Bill Kunkel spent the middle of the week in Tucson, breaking holiday bread with the good folks from Running with Scissors. Bill has done a variety of assignments for the electronic game developer (*Postal*), so they invited him down for the Christmas Party. Hopefully, this served to dull the pain the Kunkels have gotten from some nasty computer problems that effectively destroyed their telephone service for nearly a week...

Teresa Cochran, John Wesley Hardin and Joelle Barnes are all looking for work and could use any assistance from the Las Vegas fan community. Teresa is looking for something that won't frustrate her lack of eyesight, John wants an IT or editorial position and Joelle needs some decent work at reasonable pay...

ChatBack: The VFW Letter Column

The interval between issues was a little shorter this time, but there's no lack of response. Let's get right to the comments...

A fellow member of First Fandom delves into several intriguing aspects of fanhistory with consummate skill also comments on the current fan scene...

Robert Lichtman

In "The Merry Widner" I can understand Art's annoyance that upstarts like you and me are allowed to be members of First Fandom even though our parents hadn't gotten around to conceiving us until well beyond the original eligibility cut-off date of December 31, 1939.

My own recent experience with First Fandom was origi-

nally fueled when Jim Harmon was editing their bulletin. Unlike the current ones, it was a zippy little production with a fair amount of interesting material in each issue. On the strength of that, I joined up not quite a year ago. And like you and Joyce, I've been distinctly underwhelmed by the current version of the bulletin and in the absence of any other perk of membership consider the \$10 annual dues to be a rather costly subscription fee. I'm leaning towards not renewing when it comes up.

I don't know which "fannish alumni who have achieved mundane distinction" John DeChancie mentioned at that party, but of course applaud your addition of X. J. ("JoKe") Kennedy and Ringo Starr, even while wondering what the latter's fannish connection might be. If DeChancie omitted him and you didn't think of him, let me also add "Gene Simons" of KISS to the list, formerly the pimply, not very talented fan Gene Klein.

Shelby mentions the mostly forgotten Vernon L. McCain's *Wastebasket* in his column. I don't have any issues of that title, but I have a few of its predecessor, *Birdsmith*, and can vouch for the excellence of McCain's prose. As it happens, McCain's final column in Gregg Calkins's *Oops!* Was in the first issue of that fanzine I ever saw -- which was *the* first fanzine I ever saw -- so I've been aware of him even as he passed away (in 1958).

In his article on "Annishes of Old" Dick Lupoff wonders about *Fanac*'s publication schedule: "It was a weekly, wunnit? Or biweekly. Whichever." It began as a weekly in the run-up to South Gate in '58, but following the convention Ron and Terry changed it to an every other week schedule, writing in the colophon for the 25th issue, September 26, 1958, "Notice our new sub rates and our new pubbing schedule." (It had gone from 6/25¢ to 4/25¢ following a postal rate increase.)

You write, in your comments at the end of Peter Sullivan's letter, "I never folded *Quip*, but it's unlikely that I'll ever produce another one." This might be a good time to ask

Continued page 12

Bulletin Katzes Change Address!

In case you missed it in the colophon — that's the box on page 2 that is half-info and half-wit — Joyce and I have changed our snail mail address, effective immediately. We've had the old one for 16 years, but from now on, please send egoboo, presents, hard copy fanzines and anything else you want to get to us to: **909 Eugene Cernan Street, Las Vegas, NV 89145.**

We'd been toying with the idea of abandoning Good Old Box 152 for a while, but there are advantages to address continuity and we also liked the fact that it wasn't our street address. That being the case, we probably would've changed in the Spring anyway, but the UPS Store where we've gotten our mail for so long just abruptly announced that it is closing on January 1, 2006. They are arranging to forward our stuff to another UPS Store, but that location is fairly inconvenient. So we've decided to do now what we would've done later and switch to the **909 Eugene Cernan** address.

Please change your mailing list to reflect the new address. For those who don't know, or who've forgotten, Eugene Cernan is the man who has most recently walked on the Moon. (Hence the name Launch Pad for our home).

An Article for Arnie Messages

I'm sitting at a BASFA meeting thinking about something Arnie wrote in response to my LoC on issue 55. He said that the party I had come to on the first Saturday of October wasn't a party at all, but a meeting of the Las Vegrants. I stopped and thought about that for a while, wondering if I had missed something. And I realized I had...sort of.

I've been a part of all sorts of meetings over the years. I did student government, so I had to learn Roberts Rules of Order, a deadly tool that can save your life. Roberts Rules point out a lot of little things and are designed to keep people from all talking at once. At the Vegrants 'meeting' there weren't only people all talking at once, there were people talking all over the place!

Let's take BASFA as an example. Part of the fun of BASFA is playing around with the rules and making puns (like LASFS, you make a pun, you pay a fine). We call it Recreational Parliamentarianism. We do the Roberts Rules stuff, only modifying them to make things a little...OK a LOT, easier on us. There's a call to order. There's a series of reports from the officers. There's a section for business. A section for announcements. A



time for reviews of stuff. Now, read like that, it would seem a colossal bore, but then the practice is something much different.

An officer's report might be a report of the fanzines I've...I mean the officer had written or a report of an up-coming event coming up. Or it might be a report on why his car wouldn't start. Or it could be a long shaggy dog story leading up to a pun punchline. There's not a lot of seriousness in the reports. The reviews can be of science fiction movies, TV, music or theatre, or of cataract surgery, train rides, what it's like wearing a shirt inside-out all day and not realizing it, or Frank Wu's latest article that came out about a minute before the meeting. It's not a serious world, BASFA, but it is obviously a meeting. The end of the meeting is signified by appointing a rumor of the week, which can be an actual rumor (The 49ers are 3 point underdogs against the Bye-week) or just something silly (BBBBRAAIIIIINNNSSSS!). It's not the structure, it's what you do with it that makes it entertaining.

I've never been to a LASFS or NESFA meeting, though I'm told that those are REAL meetings, with serious minutes and serious issues to discuss. BASFA doesn't put on cons, though a lot of members regularly work on various ones around the world. It's just a gathering of people to have some food, talk a bit and play around with Roberts Rules.

And so, this brings me to my point: The Las Vegrants 'Meeting' in fact being a meeting. Well, here's how I figure it: if there are cookies, that's not a meeting. There certainly were cookies at the Vegrants First Saturday event, but I've been told that might be a bit narrow of a definition. So, second, it was a planned event and people came to chat. That's a meeting of sorts, though less was considered to be the first con by in Philadelphia in the 1930s. But here's the real reason why it was actually a meeting...

OK, I got nothing but Arnie's word that it was, and that's good enough for me.

— Chris Garcia

you how many issues there were. In my collection I have issues 1 through 12, inclusive, plus an issue 11.5 (the Fannish Worry Book). Is that a complete set?

Arnie: I could not agree more about Vernon L McCain. At the risk of sounding like my long-time friend (and long-time McCain admirer) Ted White, McCain was an outstanding fan and his premature death (a bungled minor surgery that led to peritonitis) robbed Fandom of one of its greats. McCain struck me as sort of a Harry Warner with a better sense of humor – and that's a mighty high rating in my book.

I'm not sure I'd label Gene Klein "not very talented." He was originally in horror/sf movie Fandom and was only beginning to understand the "faster track" of SF Fanzine Fandom when his life got very busy. Bill Kunkel and I (who barely knew each other at the time) both corresponded with Gene and, I think, saw him as a promising young fan. He came along at about the same time, and from the same "other Fandom" source, as John D. Berry. John grew into a very fine fan while Gene's fan career ended due to his musical success.

I hate to admit this, but I no longer recall how many issues I did of Quip and my file has not yet completely surfaced. I think I may've done a 13th issue, but I wouldn't want you to start hunting for it based on my extremely hazy impression.

Here's a short, but interesting note from one of the pillars of Southern Fandom (and a recent addition to the VFW family...

Rich Dengrove

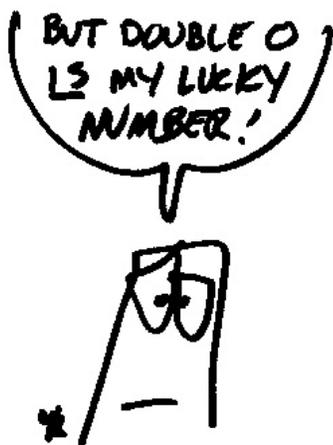
Shelby Vick talks about early science fiction films violating the laws of physics? Why not? Most fight scenes do. Arnie, keep your zines coming.

Arnie: I believe a mystery writer once wrote an essay in which he described what would really happen in a fight in terms of damage. I originally heard about the piece from Ted White, whom I hope will enlighten us in VFW.

From the other side of the Atlantic comes this letter in which the writer worries about keeping up the pace – and then does so in splendid fashion...

Mark Plummer

You know, I was only setting myself the target of keeping up with VFW in the sense of actually reading it every week rather than following the past practice of stacking up issues all around the house for later considered perusal. Actually



emailing some kind of cogent comment on a weekly basis seems altogether too optimistic. And you don't make it easy. #55, whilst slim by comparison with its immediate predecessor, is not a 'train on the way home' fanzine. It actually encroaches into the 'watching meaningless TV' time as well.

But then you say the nicest things: 'One of the United Kingdom's finest fanzine publishers' indeed. Coo. I mean, OK, you're drawing on a field of, what, about half a dozen people? But still...

I think Robert Lichtman is right in that viewing his formative fannish years as coinciding with a golden age makes him something of an exception. I suspect that the far more common experience is that the golden age was a point slightly before the individual's own entry to fandom -- and having just looked back at VFW #33 I see that that was, indeed, pretty much what you said originally so it's just as well that I checked.

That formula pretty much works for me as it places a golden age in the early eighties, up to the whole Bergeron business, and yes, I think that I'd be pretty happy with arguing for that, at least this afternoon. But then again, maybe later I'll read some early seventies ratzines or some copies of Pete Weston's *Speculation* and give you a different opinion. And there's an awful lot of stuff in Fandom Past that I don't know about, so I'm sure there are plenty of other golden ages to discover. I have not given up the search by any means.

Arnie: Well, you seem to be keeping up with the fanzine pretty well – and I am delighted to see your letters landing in the mail queue with such regularity.

My introductory lines in ChatBack accent the positive, of course, but I am not writing anything I don't believe. Banana Wings is my favorite current UK fanzine, though I reject your comment that there are only about a half-dozen other titles that would merit that compliment if they were better.

From the Sunshine State comes the living embodiment of that slogan, one of the sunniest individuals ever to crank a mimeograph...

Shelby Vick

HEY! You swapped my puffin-Rotsler for a REAL puffin! .but that's okay; just so's it saw light again. . . .

I swear that the LoCs you publish are, often, good articles in themselves. Which is why I still maintain VFW is a letterzine...

Seems like most everybody has met Julie Schwartz. . . 'cept for me. In fact, when I was in NY it never occurred to me to try. Ah, well. It was only by happenstance that I met Marion Zimmer Bradley.

Arnie: There's a little story behind the placement of that illo. When I laid out your column, there was room only for those two classic photographs. I didn't want to hold the illo without using it, so I put it on the front page (often one of the last illo spots to fall into place.

The last thing that happens before VFW goes into distribution each week is that Joyce proofreads and I enter the corrections. I was already running late, furiously fixing my

TruConfessions Faan Fiction

Father Arnie J. Katz, of the First National Church of Burbee, Las Vegas, sighed. Taking confession was one of his least favourite pastoral activities, but the Bishop insisted. Over the years, he'd heard just about everything. From the steady stream of teenaged media fen confessing "impure thoughts" about Seven of Nine (standard penance: six Hail Majels). Through to that most heinous of fannish sins, TAFF fund malfeasance. The door of the confession cubicle clicked open, and a fresh penitent entered.

"Bless me Father, for I have serconned."

"Serconned, you say, my child. How did this happen?"

"I was reading a science fiction book, Father." Arnie's nostrils flared slightly. Reading a science fiction book, whilst not actually a sin in itself for the Church of Trufandom, could easily lead to more serious things. A bit like getting to second base in the mundane world. "What happened then, my child?"

"I... I wrote a letter, Father. About the book, I mean. A sercon letter. I sent it to a sercon fanzeen editor."

"Has he published it?"

"N-not yet, Father."

"You wrote a letter about science fiction. That's nothing to be ashamed of. Do you have your copy of the gospel according to Francis Laney Tower on you?"

"Yes Father."

"Turn to page 16, verse 5, and read me what it says."

"The subject matter is immaterial. He can even be talking about science-fiction if he does a good enough job, has something original to say."

"Even Science Fiction," repeated the prelate, kindly. "As long as you wrote fannishly, the fact that it was a sercon subject does not make it a sin in the Church of Trufandom. You did write fannishly, my child?"

"I – I try to, Father. Always."

"Who did you write the letter to?"

"B-Bruce Gillespie, Father. A Prince of Sercon."

"Bruce Gillespie? What are you worried about, my child? Whilst Bruce Gillespie is indeed a Prince of Sercon, is he not also numbered among the saints in the Church of Trufandom?"

"Yes, Father."

"Remember your catechism, child. Why is Bruce Gillespie numbered among the saints in the Church of Trufandom?"

"In that year," quoted the neo-fan, shakily both from an unsteady mind and an uncertain memory, "Bruce Gillespie first recognised and named the High Priestess of Fandom..."

"...Named the High Priestess of Fandom," repeated Arnie, almost as in prayer. "My child, what are you worried about? You wrote a fannish letter to a saint in the Church of Trufandom. A little presumptions for a neo-fan, maybe, but I find no sin."

"But Father..."

Arnie felt an avuncular smile cross his face in the darkness of the confession chamber. "But, my child, if it will ease your guilt, I will give you penance. I require you to write a faan fiction article for the parish weekly newsletter. Does that ease your troubled mind?"

"Yes, Father."

So I did. — Peter Sullivan

various orthographic transgressions, when I came to page two of your column and discovered that Joyce had spotted a truly calamitous problem. Somehow, I had duplicated more than half the text. When I re-did the layout properly, I found that I had a hole on the page that required an additional illo or photo.

I don't know how he does it, but I sure do like to see his name in my email queue with "LoC" in the subject line...

Chris Garcia

Well, well, a good issue again. It's amazing how you keep the pace up and the quality right there with it!

Contact! Las Vegas Club Directory

Looking for a local group? These are the major ones.

Las Vegrants

Arnie & Joyce Katz,
909 Eugene Cernan St., Las Vegas, NV 89145
Email: JoyceWorley1@cox.net
Phone: 648-5677

Neon Rainbow SF/F Club

Joshua Andrews
Email: Andrews1701@gmail.com
702-759-9303

SNAFFU:

Michael Bernstein
Email: webmaven@cox.net
Phone: 765-7279

VSFA:

Rebecca Hardin
Email: hardin673@aol.com
Phone: 453-2989

I hope the Christmas Party at the Daugherty's pad went well for all those who attended. Sorry to hear that you and Joyce weren't able to make it, but time will make up for the events y'all missed. Sadly, I missed the Christmas parties up here this weekend due to Evelyn needing to be taken care of (and not the way that would have ended up with her in a hole in the desert). The annual Christmas Party/Chili Cook-off went off without me for the second straight year. I had a brilliant concept for a deconstructed chili. Next Year: I debut Chili-Fried Rice!

Nice look at all the new folks who are up for Outstanding New Vegas Fan. I didn't realize that so many of the folks that I met when I was out there were newish. Interestingly enough, all but Ruth Davidson of the Outstanding Additions were at LosCon. An interesting piece of coincidence? It's a nice piece of trivia that'll I'll be able to bust out if one of the 86% of that list ends up winning, I'll be able to say that I dined with the winner *before* they were the winner!

Sounds like an interesting party...I mean meeting, of the Vegrants. I still don't get how anything can not be a party if there are cookies to be had. All pornography is not the same. There's the type you pay for and the type you get for free. Everything else is superficial difference.

And Dave Gordon was so obsessed on the skinny-dipping thing at LosCon that I fully expected to read that he had brought it up the next time y'all got together out there. It's kinda nice that all the Vegas folks hang together when off at cons. It makes it easier to get to see them all for folks like me who want to stop by, say hello and maybe nosh a bit with 'em. There are various pods of BArea fandom that hang together no matter how far from home they roam. I like to

bounce between them and have a good time with the different clans, as it were.

First off, I love Heidi Fleiss. I have managed to meet her once, in LA during a trip down to meet with my friend M, who was a friend of a friend of hers. She was charming and gorgeous and luckily Tom Sizemore was nowhere to be seen so he didn't deck me for staring at her while we conversed for a moment or two. I hear that her ranch will be a high-class affair, so to speak, and that she'll personally oversee the Ranch and its operations from the front of house, which will only make it more popular. I'll gladly contribute to the Joelle to The Ranch fund the next time I'm out there, which looks like February.

By the way, Art Widner, all of 88, is an anomaly and should never be considered his own age. I'm fairly certain that he spent his 30+ years of GAFIA in some sort of cryonic chamber which kept him and his mind eternally tuned. I swear that he's got more energy than I do at roughly 1/3 of his age. ShelVy appears to be another who went away for a good long time and returned fresh as a daisy.

Arnie: One of the reasons I started VFW was to provide some orientation and guidance for the New Generation of Las Vegas Fandom. We've had a terrific influx, as you know from your visit here a few months back.

Art Widner, much like Marvel Comics' Captain America, spent several long decades in a form of hibernation. In this case, the fabulous super-fan was trapped in a vat of hardened Corflu – an experimental yellow formulation that has never been made since – where he slumbered in dreamless sleep until a roving band of fans melted him free of his Obliterine prison.

Now a letter from a fan who made his first Chatback appearance just a couple of weeks ago..

John Purcell

Hang it all, Arnie, I can't keep up with you and Chris Garcia! I just got back in the loccking habit, and already I'm falling behind thanks to you two. Before you know it, I may have to resort to writing a Lloyd Penney-type loc in order to catch up. Hey! That's not a bad idea...

#54: I really enjoyed your annish from front to back, especially your helpful comments to new fans, such as on how to write a loc, the four kinds of fanac, hoaxes, what the fannish way is, and so forth.

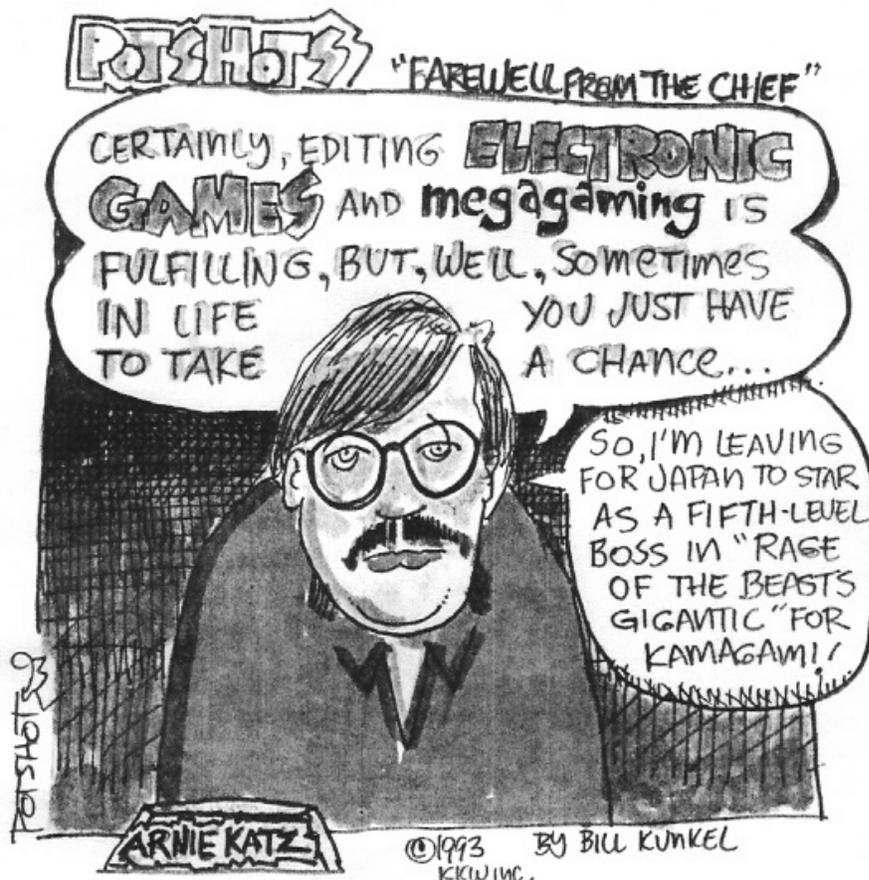
Some comments are in order, naturally, beginning with

that I, also, love Fandom. In the early '90's my life drifted off in another direction as I simply became involved with my family as husband and father, concentrating on my job, then my career as an educator.

Even so, I have never forgotten my fannish past, frequently drawing upon it for inspiration and fond memories. Once I got down here to TAMU I started seeing stuff about Cepheid Variable, the student sf club and their Aggiecon, and my interest in things fannish was reignited.

Thanks to Bill Burns and others, I got back into fanpubbing again. It really all is about friends that we have in fandom, and that you only get out of it what you put into it. It appears that I have rediscovered The Fannish Way. If you

Potshot's Cartoon Theater



take fandom and fanac too seriously it can overwhelm you and then you lose all perspective about what it's all about, and then it's not fun anymore. Fandom is supposed to be fun, and I think you desert-dwellers are heading in the right direction. It sounds like y'all are having A Good Time out there.

#55: I like your idea of awarding new fans for their efforts and such. A great idea for fannish initiative and rewarding effort. Egoboo is always good. Speaking of which, I have been enjoying Bill Kunkel's artwork. Most fun.

Linda Bushyager is living in Las Vegas now? Just to show you how much out of the loop I have been, the last I knew she was in Philadelphia --- I think. Somewhere back east, that's all I can remember. How well I remember Gran-falloon. Good stuff.

One last thing here: pardon my ignorance, but what does SNAFFU stand for? I am assuming it's some Area 51 type of stfnal smoffers gathering, but I could be wrong.

#56: Once again, a great idea to introduce the newcomers in your group. For such an old phart as myself, this is going to be most helpful in remembering names as I run across them in VFW and elsewhere.

Hey, that Las Vegrants write up reminds me of the end of year party-thon that Minn-stf used to have back in the day. They probably still are just as active nowadays (a quick check of Einblatt will settle this issue), but when I was actively involved in Mipple-Stipple we used to call it Holiday-Con because that is exactly what it was like: a con over the holiday season. From Christmas Eve on through Jan. 2nd, it was like non-stop party and fun stuff to do. *sigh* Fond memories. At any rate, it's too bad Heidi Fleiss wasn't really at your meeting; frankly, I'm a bit disappointed, since she might frequent the Vegas area. Who knows?

Shelby Vick and I seem to be in somewhat of the same boat, and it ain't Courtney's. If it wasn't for the Internet, I probably wouldn't be back in fandom as a faned or even a loc writer. Personally, I don't think that the statement "it is a proud and lonely thing to be a fan" will ever fade away. Fanac is such a personal thing in so many ways, but becomes more enjoyable when you can meet like-minded folks who dig fanzines, fanwriting, and good, old fashioned smoffing once in a while. The question is not that Fandom has changed -- a big "duh!" there -- or that fans have changed (another "duh!"), but that the basic make-up, needs, interests, and desires haven't changed since the beginning of fandom. In my mind, it's all as much fun as we personally want it to be, and maybe we should just leave it at that.

YAY!! A picture of Steve Brust! He has always been one of my favorite Minn-stfers. Once he started playing guitar and playing at the all-night music parties in Minn-stf and at Minicons, he simply stepped the enjoyment factor up a few notches. Steve is a natural enter-

tainer: he's got that damned "look" that makes you know he's up to something, and you gotta hang around to find out what that is. A fun guy. And you're right: he IS a damn fine writer. But it's funny in a way; the other day I was eye-balling the sf racks at the Half-Price Bookstore here in town, and it made me laugh to see a half-dozen copies of his books on the hard-cover shelves. Sorry, Steve! Apparently not everybody in the world wants to keep his books at home. I may have to liberate some of these used books and give them a rightful home.

Arnie: Painful as it is for me to write this, I have to admit that I don't expect a letter every issue. I mean, I hope for a LoC from every reader every week, but I also understand that Fandom isn't always the top priority. On the other hand, I also want to welcome you as a recent addition to the roster of ChatBack regulars.

New York's fanzine fans have a tradition of New Year's Eve celebrations. I well remember the Fanoclasts Open Party at Ted White's each year and the huge ones Joyce and I threw in the early 1970's. The ones we've hosted here in Las Vegas were deliberately small when we started and have gradually evolved into large, if low-key, gatherings.

One of my favorite letter-writers has a question about Joyce ad my decision to resign from FAPA (among other things)...

Laurraine Tutihasi

I'm sorry to hear that Joyce isn't well enough to attend the holiday party that sounds so scrumptious. I hope her continued convalescence goes quickly.

What's this about your resigning from FAPA? I must have missed it in my skimming of the latest disty.

I hope Linda Bushyager is doing better. I never heard that shingles was contagious. My understanding is that it is a recurrence caused by the same virus that causes chicken pox. If you haven't had chicken pox, you won't get shingles. Am I wrong? My mother had a mild case of it years ago. My sister and I have never had chicken pox, and she is a pediatrician. We both went ahead got vaccinated against it even though we suspect we may be naturally immune. I presume this makes us immune to shingles as well.

Arnie: Yes, Joyce and I decided that it was time for us to resign from FAPA. It's not a reflection on the quality or size of the mailings or the composition of the roster. We based our decision on the cost, my sense that hanging onto a roster spot like grim death wouldn't make me happy and a feeling that it might be better in the long run if I went with the trend rather than tried to continue to buck it.

One of my favorite lockers asks for a glorious restoration...



Las Vegas Fan Events Calendar

Las Vegrants Meeting December 17 7:30 PM

The informal, invitation club meets on the first and third Saturdays at the home of Arnie and Joyce Katz

Sunday Social December 18 2 PM

One of Vegas' most convivial groups gets together at the Blue Ox for food and chatter

SNAPS Deadline December 18

Get your contributions to OE Joyce Katz (joyceworley1@cox.net).

SNAFFU Meeting December 25 8:00 PM

This formal SF club has a dinner/social gathering on the fourth Friday of the month.

Las Vegas Fandom New Year's Eve Open House December 31 7:30 PM

Come for the evening or a stopover as Arnie & Joyce Katz invite all Vegas fans to help them usher in the New Year.

VSEA 'First Monday' Meeting January 2, 7:00 PM

A little discussion, a bit a business and a bit of socializing comprise this monthly session of this small, but active group.

SNAFFU Meeting January 13 8:00 PM

This formal SF club meets the second and fourth Friday's of each month. This time, it will be held at Borders bookstore on Sahara.

Vegas Fandom Weekly First Anniversary Celebration January 14 2 PM

SNAFFU salutes Vegas' weekly newszine with a party at Metro Pizza. All Vegas fans — and any roving out-of-towners — are enthusiastically invited..

Sunday Social December 15 2 PM

One of Vegas' most convivial groups gets together at the Blue Ox for food and chatter.

David Burton

I'm not sure whether it was a heavy editorial hand or too light a touch when you did a copy & paste from my previous e-mail, but a little bit got left out, making me sound even less lucid than normal. (As Harold Ross, founder and editor of *THE NEW YORKER* once said, "I wouldn't want you to think I'm not incoherent.") The paragraph in question should start: "Sadly, the only member of the club who went on to become a pro writer was Sandra Meisel, although most of her writing has been non-fiction."

Arnie: OK Mister Backseat Editor, you've got your missing line. Seriously, it probably vanished in a last-minute bit of frantic editing. Sorry if I blurred the meaning.

A leading British fan talks about the social side of conventions and how barriers may arise between groups and individuals who don't mean to build them.

Mark Plummer

I'm not entirely surprised to hear (VFW#56) that Vegas fans tend to hang out together even when attending conventions in far-flung places. I was remarking to Yvonne Rowse the other week that the British contingent at Corflu exhibits the same sort of behaviour. And yes, I was conscious that at the recent Worldcon I was as often as not in the bar with

Geneva Melzack or Max or Tony Keen or any of the other people that I see several times a month.

In part, I suppose, it's because I haven't really got the hang of this socialising thing; I don't quickly adapt to being around people I don't really know and thus fall back on the safe known quantities. It feels slightly odd saying that because it occurs to me that in this context somebody like James Bacon can be referred to as 'safe' which certainly seems a little peculiar but I trust you get my meaning.

I saw a recent Live Journal post from a young (teenage) fan remarking on the way that the older (ie: post-teenage) fans at Worldcon were a bit stand-offish and remote, to which I was tempted to remark that just because some of us have been doing convention social interaction for decades it doesn't mean we've actually got any better at it.

I also wonder -- and this maybe contradicts the foregoing -- whether the greater numbers of conventions and ease of travel means that there's less of an imperative to make the most of opportunities that the convention represents: exotic fans from far-flung locations just aren't as exotic any more. Once upon a time, when conventions were annual events (this is the UK model I'm talking about here) and visiting overseas fans were almost as scarce as, well, post-1973 American TAFF reports, I'm sure there was a real sense that you had to make the most of the opportunity to hang with the

out-of-towners, because there was a good chance you'd never see them again.

Now... well, it's OK to just chat with the usual crew because if you don't really get to talk much with X or Y this time you'll be able to catch up in six months or a year or whatever. Thus at

Conflu I can sit in the bar with Eve and John Harvey because it's not as if by chatting to them I'm missing my once-in-a-lifetime chance to talk with, say, Robert Lichtman. That's an international perspective, but I guess it applies equally to out-of-state convention-going.

But also I guess I hang out with people like Geneva and Max and Tony because they're my friends and I guess that applies whether we're in London or Glasgow or anywhere else.

Oh, and I second Linda Bushyager's suggestion of numbers on the front of *VFW*. A minor point, I know, but it does make it easier to find what you're looking for in a wodge of paper. I have recently been working on cataloguing the Brialey/Plummer fanzine collection and you'd be amazed how many fanzines have no discernable number at all, and occa-



sionally no recognizable title or editor either.

Arnie: The same impulse that impels us to cluster in Fandom as a defense against the Mundane world also encourages us to cling together when in the midst of a lot of stranger who may call themselves fans, but are strangers to us and our subculture.

Most of the people coming into All Known Fandom today are much better socialized to mainstream cultural norm than any of us weirdoes who found Fandom when reading SF (or much of anything else) made one a pariah. What may seem like aloofness to that teenaged fan could be no more than social ineptitude and xenophobia.

We Also Heard From: Eric Mayer, Roxanne Mills, Dick Pelletier, Joelle Barnes.

It Always Hurts to Say 'Good-Bye'

I shaved more than a day off the schedule this time and hope to do the same next week. Send news, contributions and letters of comment — and I'll see you next Thursday or Friday.

— Arnie Katz

In This Issue of Vegas Fandom Weekly...

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